AP US History

Chapter 21 Questions

1. In what ways are progressivism, muckrakers, and government officials connected?

Progressivism was the movement of reform, the muckrakers were using journalism to spread reform, (some + corrupt) government officials were under attack by them. Progressivism wanted to fix the problems of society, the muckrakers had presented these problems to the public, and it was up to government officials to do what they think is right (that and that they were part of the corruption; ex: Boss Rule). The muckrakers were a part of the new spirit of reform, which was progressivism, in other words the muckrakers was a byproduct of progressivism. Muckrakers had done a lot of investigations into government officials, some were corrupt and were using boss rule, or having deals with the monopolists. The government officials, like the president had to eventually please progressives, because the people had supported progressivism. The muckrakers also wanted to make the public reform government law. Government officials had supported progressivism, they created new laws to support progressives’ needs. The progressives had been able to call a re-call to choose new people for government.

1. Who were the 4 most important people of the progressive era? Explain.

The four most important people during this time were Alice Paul, Robert La Follette, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Eugene Debs. Paul was important because she tried to obtain an equal rights amendment so that women were completely equal to men. La Follette was important because he made state government work to please progressives. Du Bois was important because he started a colored people’s organization. Debs was important because he was the first candidate for socialism.

1. To what extent was the capitalist order of big business America being challenged in the progressive era? How successful were the challengers?

The capitalist order was being challenged in many different ways, but it was a moderate challenge. The critiques of the capitalist system had attracted more support in 1900-1914. Support was strongest in German and Jewish immigrant communities, Protestant farmers had joined the cause as well. One change they wanted was the power of businessmen over their workers. The most biggest change they wanted was anti-trust, the concentration of power (monopolies). The opportunity of other business would fail due to the large monopolies, they could make their products cheaper to make other places go out of business. Anti-trust laws had been created as a result of this. Progressives wanted socialism, where everyone could be equal, it was very different from capitalism, since there was no competition in socialism. There was a problem with socialism, helping the weak is harder than letting them “die” out.

1. Who were the winners and losers of the progressive era? Explain.

The winners were progressives, small businesses, women, prohibitionists. The losers were conservatives, monopolists, workers. The basic reasons for the winners were that government was in their favor and had created laws that helped stop some of the monopoly’s power, built reform (which the conservatives didn’t want), small businesses benefited from the monopoly’s loss of power, women won because now they could finally vote, but still were not equal to men, and prohibitionists because the 18th Amendment was in law. Workers had lost because they still hadn’t got much done for them, working conditions remained pitiful.